CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical tablet comprising a pharmaceutical core containing a placebo or a first drug and having a top side, a bottom side and edges, a compressible coating deposited on said core, and a second drug compressed onto said compressible coating adjacent to said bottom side of said core to form a first compressed layer.

2. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 further comprising a placebo or a third drug compressed onto said compressible coating adjacent to said top side to form a second compressed layer.

3. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 2 wherein the weight ratio of the combined said first compressed layer and said second compressed layer to said pharmaceutical core is from about 1:20 to less than about 1.25:1.

4. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 2 wherein the weight ratio of the combined said first compressed layer and said second compressed layer to said pharmaceutical core is from about 1:10 to about 1:1.

5. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 2 wherein the weight ratio of the combined said first compressed layer and said second compressed layer to said pharmaceutical core is from about 1:5 to about 9:10.

6. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 wherein said pharmaceutical core is an osmotic controlled release core.

7. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claims 1 wherein said pharmaceutical core is a pharmaceutically active core having deposited thereon an enteric coating.

8. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claims 1 wherein said compressible coating comprises a gum-based resin.

9. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 8 wherein said compressible coating further comprises a plasticizer.

10. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 9 wherein said plasticizer is a water-soluble plasticizer.

11. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 10 wherein said water-soluble plasticizer is polyethyleneglycol.

12. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 8 wherein said gum-based resin is a polyvinylacetate resin having a weight average molecular weight from about 2,000 to about 20,000.

13. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claims 1 wherein said compressible coating is a delayed or controlled release coating.

14. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 wherein said second drug is the same as said first drug.

15. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 wherein said second drug is different from said first drug.

16. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 wherein said first drug is pseudoephedrine and said second drug is cetirizine.

17. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 wherein said second drug has an immediate release rate.

18. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 17 wherein said pharmaceutical core is an osmotic controlled release core.

19. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 17 wherein said pharmaceutical core is a pharmaceutically active core having deposited thereon an enteric coating.

20. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 wherein said second drug has a controlled release drug delivery profile.

21. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 20 wherein said pharmaceutical core is an osmotic controlled release core.

22. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 20 wherein said pharmaceutical core is a pharmaceutically active core having deposited thereon an enteric coating.

23. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 1 further comprising a third drug compressed onto said compressible coating adjacent to said top side of said core.

24. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 23 wherein said first drug, said second drug and said third drug are all the same.

25. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 23 wherein said first, second and third drugs each have a different drug release profile.

26. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 23 wherein said first drug, said second drug and said third drug have the same drug release profile.

27. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 23 wherein two of said first drug, said second drug or said third drug have the same drug release profile and one has a different drug release profile.

28. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 23 wherein said compressible coating comprises a polyvinyl acetate resin and a plasticizer.

29. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 28 wherein said plasticizer is a water-soluble plasticizer.

30. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 29 wherein said water-soluble plasticizer is polyethyleneglycol.

31. A pharmaceutical tablet comprising (i) a pharmaceutical core containing a placebo or a first drug and having a top side, a bottom side and edges, and a compressible coating deposited on said core, (ii) a second drug compressed onto said compressible coating adjacent to said bottom side of said core to form a first compressed layer, and (iii) a placebo or a third drug compressed onto said compressible coating adjacent to said top side to form a second compressed layer.

32. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein the weight ratio of the combined said first compressed layer and said second compressed layer to said pharmaceutical core is from about 1:20 to less than about 1.25:1.

33. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein the weight ratio of the combined said first compressed layer and said second compressed layer to said pharmaceutical core is from about 1:10 to about 1:1.

34. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein the weight ratio of the combined said first compressed layer and said second compressed layer to said pharmaceutical core is from about 1:5 to about 9:10.

35. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein said pharmaceutical core is an osmotic controlled release core.

36. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein said pharmaceutical core is a pharmaceutically active core having deposited thereon an enteric coating.

37. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein said compressible coating is a delayed or controlled release coating.

38. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein said compressible coating comprises a gum-based resin.

39. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 38 wherein said compressible coating further comprises a plasticizer.

40. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 39 wherein said plasticizer is a water-soluble plasticizer.

41. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 40 wherein said water-soluble plasticizer is polyethyleneglycol.

42. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 38 wherein said gum-based resin is a polyvinylacetate resin having a weight average molecular weight from about 2,000 to about 20,000.

43. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein a placebo is compressed onto said compressible coating adjacent to said top side.

44. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said pharmaceutical core is an osmotic controlled release core.

45. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said pharmaceutical core is a pharmaceutically active core having deposited thereon an enteric coating.

46. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said second drug is the same as said first drug.

47. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said second drug is different from said first drug.

48. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said first drug is pseudoephedrine and said second drug is cetirizine.

49. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 or 48 wherein said second drug has an immediate release rate.

50. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said compressible coating is a delayed or controlled release coating.

51. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said second drug has a controlled release drug delivery profile.

52. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 43 wherein said compressible coating comprises a gum-based resin.

53. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 52 wherein said compressible coating further comprises a plasticizer.

54. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 53 wherein said plasticizer is a water-soluble plasticizer.

55. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 54 wherein said water-soluble plasticizer is polyethyleneglycol.

56. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 52 wherein said gum-based resin is a polyvinylacetate resin having a weight average molecular weight from about 2,000 to about 20,000.

57. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 31 wherein a third drug is compressed onto said compressible coating adjacent to said top side.

58. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein said pharmaceutical core is an osmotic controlled release core.

59. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein said pharmaceutical core is a pharmaceutically active core having deposited thereon an enteric coating.

60. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein said compressible coating is a delayed or controlled release coating.

61. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein said compressible coating comprises a gum-based resin.

62. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 61 wherein said compressible coating further comprises a plasticizer.

63. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 62 wherein said plasticizer is a water-soluble plasticizer.

64. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 63 wherein said water-soluble plasticizer is polyethyleneglycol.

65. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 61 wherein said gum-based resin is a polyvinylacetate resin having a weight average molecular weight from about 2,000 to about 20,000.

66. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein said first drug, said second drug and said third drug are all the same.

67. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein said first, second and third drugs each have a different drug release profile.

68. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein said first drug, said second drug and said third drug have the same drug release profile.

69. The pharmaceutical tablet of Claim 57 wherein two of said first drug, said second drug or said third drug have the same drug release profile and one has a different drug release profile.

70. A pharmaceutical tablet comprising a pharmaceutically active core having deposited thereon a compressible coating wherein said compressible coating functions as a controlled release coating.

71. A method for manufacturing a pharmaceutical tablet comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a pharmaceutical core containing a placebo or a first drug and having deposited thereon a compressible coating;

(ii) placing a first powder comprising a second drug into a die press;

(iii) placing said pharmaceutical core from step (i) in intimate contact with said first powder in said die press;

(iv) compressing said first powder onto said compressible coating on said core to form a compressed tablet; and

(v) optionally, coating said compressed tablet from step (iv) with an outer coating.

72. The method of Claim 71 wherein said compressible coating comprises a gum-based resin and an optional plasticizer.

73. The method of Claim 71 wherein said gum-based resin is polyvinylacetate having a weight average molecular weight from about 2,000 to about 20,000.

74. The method of Claim 73 wherein said plasticizer is a water-soluble plasticizer.

75 The method of Claim 74 wherein said water-soluble plasticizer is polyethyleneglycol.

76. The method of Claim 71 wherein said first drug is the same as said second drug.

77. The method of Claim 71 wherein said first drug and said second drug are different.

78. The method of Claim 71 wherein said first drug is pseudoephedrine and said second drug is cetirizine.

79. The method of Claim 71 wherein said second drug is formulated to be released at a faster rate than said first drug.

80. The method of Claim 71 wherein said second drug has a different drug release profile from said first drug.

81. The method of Claim 71 wherein said second drug has the same drug release profile as said first drug.

82. The method of Claim 71 wherein said compressible coating is a controlled release coating.

83. A method for manufacturing a pharmaceutical tablet comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a pharmaceutical core containing a placebo or a first drug and having deposited thereon a compressible coating;

(ii) placing a first powder into a die press;

(iii) placing said pharmaceutical core from step (i) in intimate contact with said first powder in said die press;

(iv) placing a second powder in intimate contact with said pharmaceutical core on the opposite side from said first powder in said die press;

(v) compressing both said first powder and said second powder onto said compressible coating on said core to form a compressed tablet; and

(vi) optionally, coating said compressed tablet from step (v) with an outer coating

wherein either said first powder or said second powder comprises a second drug.

84. The method of Claim 83 wherein said compressible coating comprises a gum-based resin and an optional plasticizer.

85. The method of Claim 84 wherein said gum-based resin is polyvinylacetate having a weight average molecular weight from about 2,000 to about 20,000.

86. The method of Claim 84 wherein said plasticizer is a water-soluble plasticizer.

87. The method of Claim 86 wherein said water-soluble plasticizer is polyethyleneglycol.

88. The method of Claim 83 wherein said compressible coating is a controlled release coating.

89. The method of Claim 83 wherein said second powder is a placebo.

90. The method of Claim 83 wherein said first powder comprises said second drug and said second powder comprises a third drug.

91. The method of Claim 90 wherein said first drug, said second drug and said third drug are all the same.

92. The method of Claim 90 wherein said third drug has a different rate of delivery from said first or said second drug.

93. The method of Claim 90 wherein said third drug has the same delivery rate as said first or said second drug.

94. A pharmaceutical tablet prepared by the method of any one of Claims 71 through 82.

95. A pharmaceutical tablet prepared by the method of any one of Claims 83 through 93.